

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claims 1-8 (Canceled)**

**Claim 9 (New):** A golf club comprising a handle portion; and a golf ball contacting portion which is attached to said handle portion, and wherein said golf ball contacting portion includes a heel portion and an end portion, and wherein said golf ball contacting portion includes a plurality of slots, each of said plurality of slots having a longitudinal axis of symmetry, and an identical width and a respective length which is dependent upon its respective location within said golf ball contacting portion, such that the length of the slot which is closest to said heel portion has a length which is shorter than the length of any of said other slots and such that the length of the slot which is closest to said end portion has a length which is longer than the length of any of said other slots and wherein said respective length of each of said slots is longer than the length of other slots which are closer to said heel portion but is shorter than the length of each of said remaining slots which are closer to said end portion, and wherein each of said slots pass through a first top edge of said golf ball contacting portion and terminate within a second lower portion of said golf ball contacting portion above said heel portion, and wherein each of said slots is formed and bounded by a first semicircular surface which is formed in said second

lower portion and a pair of substantially identical flat surfaces which respectively terminate into said first semicircular surface, and wherein each unique pair of substantially identical flat surfaces extend in the direction of a user of said club, are respectively and linearly coextensive to a unique slot, are parallel to each other and to said longitudinal axis of symmetry of said unique slot, and form two opposed flat, linearly coextensive and parallel slot surfaces, thereby causing each of said slots to have an identical cross-sectional area and wherein said handle is separated from all of said slots by a portion of said golf ball contacting portion.